# SAULT TRIBE WIND ENERGY FEASIBILITY STUDY PRESENTATION

In 2001, the Tribe's electrical energy costs were \$1.5MM. Windmill electrical power may provide a means for energy cost reduction while environmentally friendly.

#### **Tribal Structure**

- Sault Tribe is part of the Anishnabe or Chippewa people
- Officially recognized in the early 1970's pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934
- Became a Tribal Government on November 13, 1975
- Currently the largest employer in northern Michigan
- Provide many services to Tribal members
  - Health
  - Social Services
  - Education
  - Youth and Recreational

#### Tribal Structure (continued)

- Tribal Membership
  - In 2001, exceeds 30,000
  - The largest Tribe in Michigan
  - Majority live in the seven easternmost counties of the Upper Peninsula

#### Table 1

#### SEVEN COUNTY ENROLLMENT POPULATION

<ul> <li>Alger County</li> </ul>	497
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- Chippewa County 5,908
- Delta County 980
- Luce County 372
- Mackinac County 2,593
- Marquette County 747
- Schoolcraft County 841
- Seven County Total 11,938

#### **Project Overview**

- Feasibility of a windmill power plant in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan
  - Analyze the economic and technical feasibility of both small and large scale wind power plants
    - Phase One: Development, construction, financing and operation of a small wind power installation..
    - Phase Two: Development, construction, financing and operation of a large-scale wind power plant.

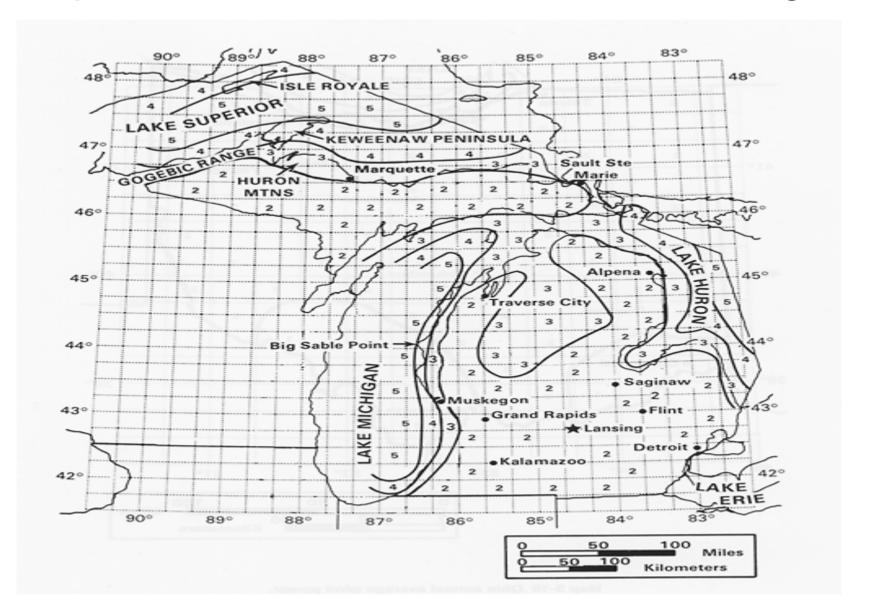
#### Project Overview (continued)

- Economic and Technical Analysis
  - Wind resource assessment on Tribal lands
  - Evaluation of existing transmission system to evacuate power
  - Designs and cost estimates
  - Environmental issues
  - Electricity cost and economic viability
  - Partner with utility companies

#### Estimating Wind Energy Resource

- Wind energy resource is estimated by wind power classes, ranging from class 1 (lowest) to class 7 (highest)
- Areas designated class 3 or greater are suitable for most wind turbine applications, whereas class 2 areas are marginal
- In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we have wind classes from 2-5 (see map following):
  - Class 2: inland (marginal)
  - Class 3: exposed lakeshore areas such as SSM, Whitefish Point,
     Munising, lower portions of the Keweenaw Peninsula, St. Ignace, Detour/
     Drummond Island and the Garden Peninsula.
  - Class 4: Middle portion of Keweenaw Peninsula
  - Class 5: Tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula, Isle Royale and offshore areas of Lake Superior

#### Map of Wind Resource Potential in Michigan



#### Estimating Wind Energy Resource

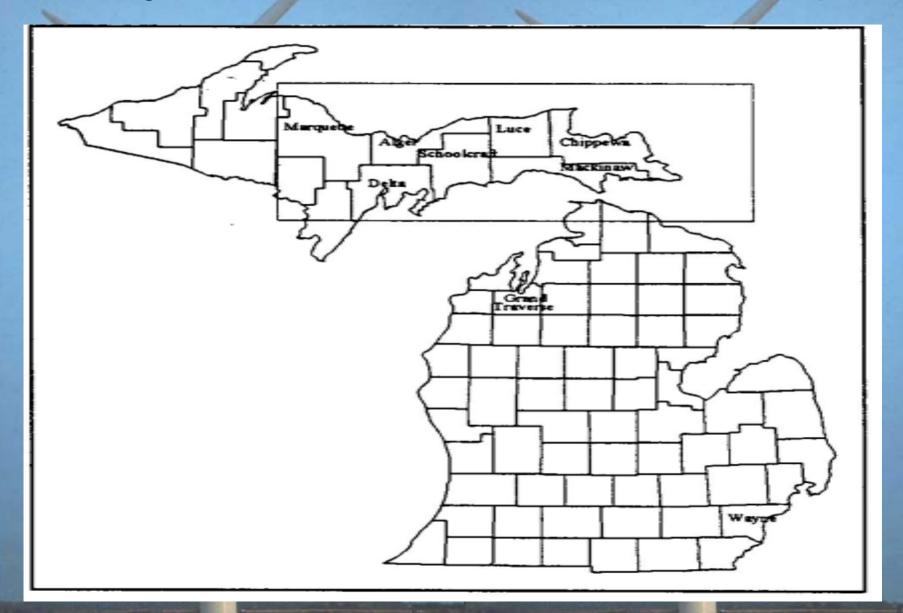
- Michigan's wind energy potential ranks 14th out of the lower 48 contiguous states
- Michigan has wind potential to justify a wind feasibility study (see map following):

## **UNITED STATES ANNUAL AVERAGE WIND POWER** PRINCIPAL HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CLASSES OF WIND POWER DENSITY -7.0-15.7--1000 --- 9.4 -- 21.1 --- 2000 --RIDGE CREST ESTIMATES LOCAL REUEF > 1000 FT

#### **Project Location**

- Climate
  - Long, windy, cold winters
  - Mild summers
  - Wind energy resource in Michigan
  - Ideal conditions for wind energy at exposed lakeshore locations (see maps following):

#### Project Location - Service Area Map



#### Upper Peninsula of Michigan



## Windmill Power Plant Locations in Great Lakes Region

- Wind power plants in the Great Lakes region currently exist in Wisconsin and Michigan only
  - Since 1998, five Wisconsin wind power plants have gone online and are located northeast of Green Bay, south of Lake Winnebago, and south of Wisconsin River.
  - Michigan has two wind power plants
    - Traverse City operating since 1996.
    - Mackinaw City operating since 2001.

## Windmill Power Plant Locations in Great Lakes Region

- Proposed wind power plants in the Great Lakes region are planned for Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan only
  - A Wisconsin project is planned for just north of Milwaukee, off Lake Michigan.
  - Illinois has two proposed projects located just southeast of Chicago.
  - Michigan has two proposed projects: Friendship Township in Emmet County, and Benona Township (north of Muskegon, off Lake Michigan).

### Map of Windmill Power Plant Locations in Great Lakes Region



#### **Project Participants**

- Sault Tribe
  - Project Director
  - Grants Administrator
  - Resource Specialist
  - Legal Department
  - Technical Advisor
  - Administrative Assistant

#### Project Participants (cont.)

- Global Energy Concepts (GEC)
  - Chief Executive Officer
    - Karen Conover
  - Registered Professional Engineer
    - Kevin Smith
  - Technical Assistance
    - Rana Vilhauer

#### Project Participants (cont.)

- GEC Subcontractors
  - Lake Michigan Wind and Sun
    - John Hippensteel
  - Consulting Engineer and Meteorologist
    - Robert Owen

#### Objectives

- Lower long-term energy costs by using wind energy to offset current costs
- Diversify employment opportunities
- Develop renewable energy resources to become economically self-sufficient
- Develop a significant source of renewable energy for our community

#### **Technical Assistance**

- GEC works extensively with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
  - Welcome input, oversight and review from the NREL and the Department of Energy.
  - Has worked with Indians Tribes with successful outcomes.

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